Welcome to the Westport Beacon

To give you a better insight into Westport’s process and work, we have launched a new series of mini-reports called the Westport Beacon.

The Beacon will be released frequently throughout the year to provide a deeper understanding of the wide variety of investigations being undertaken by the Taskforce.

Westport’s scope

A common misconception about Westport is that it is only designing a new port at the Outer Harbour in Kwinana. In fact, Westport’s scope is much broader and more complex.

Westport is producing a strategy to guide the Government on the long-term development of Perth’s freight network. With a focus on the ports at Fremantle, Kwinana and Bunbury, Westport is assessing Perth and surrounding regions’ trade and supply chain infrastructure to ensure the demands of a growing population can be met for the next 50 years and beyond.

This is an essential strategy for everyone in Western Australia. Most movement of freight throughout Greater Perth is to transport everyday goods – foods, beverages, electronics, furniture, building products and other consumables – from the port to the customers. Without an efficient supply chain, future generations may not be able to access the products we currently use each day, or they may have to pay a lot more for them.

A supply chain encompasses many dynamic and interconnected components, including ports, roads, rail-lines and intermodal terminals. However, to thoroughly assess how to maximise Perth’s freight network for the betterment of the State, Westport must also broaden its investigations to surrounding land uses and planning schemes, habitats and environments and local communities. With Perth’s supply chain extending from Bullsbrook in the north, to Forrestfield in the east, and Bunbury in the south, Westport’s study footprint is immense.

To make this task manageable, Westport has broken down the scope into smaller work packages focused on specific areas or topics. The outcomes and recommendations of these work packages will form the Westport Beacon editions.

The purpose of releasing the Beacon is to help people understand the complexity of the project and allow them to follow along as Westport builds its foundation of data and research required to determine the final strategy. We hope that by being transparent throughout Westport’s strategy development, people will be more comfortable with the process and by extension, the final outcomes.

Each topic of focus featured in the Westport Beacon will showcase the comprehensive evidence base being collated to thoroughly assess Westport’s list of options. Each issue of the Beacon will be available for download from mysaytransport.wa.gov.au/westportbeacon. Particular editions may also present opportunities for you to provide feedback and input.
At the outset, Westport committed to taking a new approach to infrastructure planning. This involved the following steps:

1. Collaborating with stakeholders through the Taskforce Reference Groups and governance structure.
2. Westport’s final recommendations will be based on solid data and evidence that will be made publicly available (transparency).
3. Adopting a peer review process for independent assessment of the methodology and outcomes.
4. Following best-practice environmental philosophies such as the World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure (PIANC) Working with Nature and Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia (ISCA).
5. The community will have opportunities to provide their input and feedback throughout the process.
6. The community’s concerns will be taken on board and influence the final strategy.

The Westport Beacon supports point 2. To be transparent and inclusive, Westport will make its evidence base available through the Beacon.

Westport believes that if people understand its process and how it arrived at conclusions, they will have more confidence in Westport’s strategy.